

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed November 14, 2008, claims 1-11 were rejected. In response, Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the proposed amendments and the below-provided remarks. No claims are canceled. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal.

For reference, claims 1 and 5-8 are amended. In particular, claims 1 and 5-8 are amended clarify the language of the claims. Also, claims 1, 5, and 8 are amended to improve the formatting of the claims. Also, claims 1 and 8 are amended to recite the tester, or testing method, is independent of the signal transmission channel. These amendments are supported, for example, by the subject matter described in the specification at page 8, lines 20-26, of the present application.

Additionally, claims 12-20 are added. Claim 12 is added to recite outputting a comparison signal separately from the signal transmission channel. Claim 13 recites outputting the comparison signal along a signal path separate from an antenna signal path. Claims 17 and 20 recite similar limitations. These amendments are supported, for example, by the illustration shown in Fig. 2, as well as the subject matter described in the specification at page 8, lines 20-26, of the present application. Claim 14 is added to recite recovering about 1/1000 of the signal generated by the transmission channel for an attenuation of about 30 dB. Claim 18 recites similar limitations. These amendments are supported, for example, by the subject matter described in the specification at page 6, line 33, through page 7, line 3, of the present application. Claim 15 is added to recite detecting the validity of a power level of the signal generated by the transmission channel to verify that the power level is within an expected range. Claim 16 is added to recite detecting a spectral purity of the signal generated by the transmission channel. These amendments are supported, for example, by the subject matter described in the specification at page 5, lines 27-31, and page 8, lines 3-4, of the present application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henriksson (WO 02/13427, hereinafter Henriksson) in view of Asam et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,853,836, hereinafter Asam). However, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Henriksson and Asam for the reasons provided below.

Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites “an integrated tester to test radio characteristics of said integrated circuit, wherein said tester is independent of said signal transmission channel” (emphasis added).

In contrast, the combination of Henriksson and Asam does not teach a tester which is independent of a signal transmission channel. Although the test module (e.g., test module 200) of Henriksson does not appear to be directly connected between the transmitter and the antenna, the Office Action relies on the arrangement of Asam to show specific components of a tester. The components of Asam are specifically arranged within the transmission channel of the transmission circuit of Fig. 1. In other words, the components of Asam are arranged between the source signal generator and the output, which feeds the transmitting antenna. Furthermore, although the some of the components within the arrangement of Asam are within a feedback path, the components are nevertheless integrated within the transmission channel because the feedback signals are used to generate the resulting amplitude modulated signal that is transmitted by the antenna. Therefore, the components within the circuit arrangement of Asam are not independent of the transmission channel because they are used to generate the resulting that is transmitted by the antenna.

Hence, the proposed combination of the circuit arrangement of Asam with the test module of Henriksson does not teach all of the limitations of the claim, because the components of Asam are necessarily within the transmission channel path. Moreover, the Office Action does not provide any explanation of how the components of Asam might be integrated with the test module of Henriksson, without requiring the components to operate within a feedback loop of the transmission channel path. In other words, there is no assertion that the test module of Henriksson might implement the components and

functionality of the circuit arrangement of Asam without necessarily requirement such components to be integrated into the transmission channel of Henriksson.

For the reasons presented above, the combination of Henriksson and Asam does not teach all of the limitations of the claim because the combination of Henriksson and Asam does not teach a tester which is independent of a signal transmission channel, as recited in the claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Henriksson and Asam because the combination of Henriksson and Asam does not teach all of the limitations of the claim.

Independent Claim 5

Applicants respectfully assert independent claim 5 is patentable over the combination of Henriksson and Asam at least for similar reasons to those stated above in regard to the rejection of independent claim 1. In particular, claim 5 recites a method of testing “an integrated circuit comprising a signal transmission channel including radio frequencies, said method to test radio characteristics of said integrated circuit and being independent of said transmission channel” (emphasis added).

Here, although the language of claim 5 differs from the language of claim 1, and the scope of claim 5 should be interpreted independently of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that the remarks provided above in regard to the rejection of claim 1 also apply to the rejection of claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert claim 5 is patentable over the combination of Henriksson and Asam because the combination of Henriksson and Asam does not teach a testing method that is independent of a transmission channel, as recited in the claim.

Independent Claim 8

Applicants respectfully assert independent claim 8 is patentable over the combination of Henriksson and Asam at least for similar reasons to those stated above in regard to the rejection of independent claim 1. In particular, claim 8 recites a “tester for testing radio characteristics of a transmission channel of an integrated circuit, said tester configured to be integrated with said integrated circuit and to be independent of said signal transmission channel” (emphasis added).

Here, although the language of claim 8 differs from the language of claim 1, and the scope of claim 8 should be interpreted independently of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that the remarks provided above in regard to the rejection of claim 1 also apply to the rejection of claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert claim 8 is patentable over the combination of Henriksson and Asam because the combination of Henriksson and Asam does not teach a tester that is independent of a transmission channel, as recited in the claim.

Dependent Claims

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9-20 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1, 5, and 8. Applicants respectfully assert claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9-20 are allowable based on allowable base claims. Additionally, each of claims 2-4, 6, 7, and 9-20 may be allowable for further reasons.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the proposed amendments and the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 2, 2009

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